

FLOOD ENDANGERS LIVES OF FIFTY FAMILIES

Marooned Beyond the Arkansas River Levee and Rescue Is Said to Be Urgent.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., January 31.—Fifty families are marooned beyond the Arkansas river levee, at Redford, between Little Rock and Pine Bluff, and unless they are rescued within four hours they probably will be drowned, according to word received at 1 o'clock this afternoon by the board of commerce here from a pilot named McNair. The board of commerce is endeavoring to obtain a steamer to send to Redford.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., January 31.—The Mississippi river continued to rise during the night and this morning registered 31.2 feet, a rise of 1 1/2 feet in twelve hours. The Meramec river, which flows into the Mississippi river twenty-five miles below this city, and the Des Peres, which skirts the western and southern edge of the city, also were rising. Hundreds of acres near Valley Park have been flooded by the Meramec.

The Illinois river went out of its banks during the night in Jersey county, Ill., and many farmers fled from their homes. They saved most of their stock by driving the herds to the surrounding hills.

SAY PROPOSED ROYALTY WILL BE PROHIBITIVE

Illuminating Company's Spokesmen Protest Suggested Rate to Indians on Gas Production.

To pay a royalty of 3 cents a thousand cubic feet to the Indians for the natural gas taken from their lands would drive the companies to other fields, according to representatives of the Indian Territory Illuminating Company at a hearing before Secretary Lane of the Interior Department today.

The hearing was given in consequence of the assertion made before a congressional committee that the Interior Department could obtain that amount for the Indians.

C. F. Leitch, representing the Indian Territory Illuminating Company, the present lessee, testified that the present lease of the company amounted to \$60,000 a year, and estimated that at the present rate of sinking wells, the lands would be used up for natural gas purposes in twelve years.

Payment Made on Well Basis. The companies now pay the Indians on the well basis of \$100 a well, and the witness said that it would be impracticable to pay on the royalty basis.

H. E. Foster pointed out that the illuminating company had to stand the leakage loss from the well to the distributing plant, because the meter was at the latter place.

Others Heard. Others who spoke were former Representative A. Mitchell Palmer of Pennsylvania and Alfred Diescher, vice president and general manager of the Paw Paw and Wichita Company, distributing agent.

At the hearing also sat the tribal council of the Osages, fearless, but in full tribal colors, giving indication that the Osage tribe had not yet been tamed in the west.

The hearing was resumed this afternoon.

DECLARES COL. HOUSE IS DRAWING NO SALARY

Secretary Lansing Tells House Foreign Committee His Expenses Only Are Being Paid.

Secretary Lansing told the House foreign affairs committee today that the \$2,000 a month he is drawing as a tour abroad is the personal representative of the President, is not drawing a salary, but his expenses are being paid out of the State Department funds. Secretary Lansing did not make clear to the committee the exact status of Col. House, and he evaded any question along that line.

Secretary Lansing drew the necessity of increasing the market fund, for which he and President Wilson are responsible, from \$75,000 to \$150,000. The Secretary was not disposed to talk about the House's mission abroad.

Quarried about the recent investigation of Minister Sullivan of San Domingo by Senator Phelan, Secretary Lansing said he regarded it as proper for the State Department to have one of its own representatives investigate and pay the expenses out of the department fund.

Representative Rogers of Massachusetts sought to bring out just what the investigation cost, which he understood was many thousands of dollars, and when Attorney Strong of Strong & Cadwallader of New York drew a salary of \$300 a day as counsel in connection with that investigation, Secretary Lansing said he would look up the matter.

W. T. MANNING CHANGES HIS PLEA BEFORE COURT

William T. Manning today changed his plea of not guilty before Chief Justice Covington in Criminal Division, No. 1, and pleaded guilty to an indictment charging manslaughter. He was committed to jail to await sentence. Manning shot his brother-in-law, Grover C. Glascock, December 27, 1914, at his apartment on Newton street following an argument over a vest. Glascock died the next day. The accused is said to have been drinking at the time of the shooting. The case was referred to the probation officer.

Former United States Attorney Clarence R. Wilson represented the defendant.

Neutral Steamers Held Up.

LONDON, January 28 (delayed by censor).—The Norwegian steamers Tanafjord, from New York for Bergen, wagon cargo, Venstria, from New Orleans and Newport News for Christiania, were held up by German submarines on the coast of Norway, and the cargo was taken to the German coast.

If you want work, read the want columns of The Star.

SCENE OF THE GERMAN DRIVE ON THE WESTERN FRONT.



MEETS AN OBJECTION FOR LIMITED DEBATE

Senator Hitchcock to Do All in His Power to Hasten a Vote on the Philippine Bill.

Senator Cummins today objected to unanimous consent asked by Senator Hitchcock that speeches on the Philippine self-government bill and all amendments be limited to ten minutes.

Senator Hitchcock then announced that he would resort to every legitimate means in his power to hasten the bill to a vote.

Senator Hitchcock today introduced another amendment to the Philippine bill to modify the amendment proposed by Senator Clarke. Senator Clarke's amendment proposed independence for the islands within four years. Senator Hitchcock's amendment would extend the time if the President thought the interests of the United States required delay in withdrawing or if the stability of the island government made it desirable.

Would Assume U. S. Obligations.

The new Philippine government would acquire the obligations the United States assumed when it took over the islands from Spain. Senator Clarke's proposal that the United States alone guarantee the independence of the islands for five years would be eliminated and the President would be authorized to invite other governments to join in respecting Philippine independence.

Colder Weather Predicted.

Slightly colder weather is predicted for tonight by the weather bureau. This will have the effect of preventing rains that would be likely otherwise.

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